

(S. B. 928)

(No. 20-2019)

(Approved May 10, 2019)

AN ACT

To amend Section 2.04(1)(a) of Act No. 26-2017, as amended, known as the “Fiscal Plan Compliance Act,” in order to include the employees of the Correctional Officer Corps of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation among the officials exempt from the provisions of the aforementioned Section; and for other related purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

One of the purposes of Act No. 26-2017, as amended, known as the “Fiscal Plan Compliance Act,” was to standardize the fringe benefits of the employees of the Government of Puerto Rico. Moreover, Act No. 3-2013 recognized that correctional officers are employees in high-risk positions just as police officers and firefighters.

The duties discharged by correctional officers include protecting life and property, and maintaining order in correctional institutions. To achieve this, correctional officers must be on high alert at all times and stand for long periods of time. They also have rotating shifts which require them to sacrifice time spent with their family and loved ones. The work conditions of correctional officers are similar to those of police officers and firefighters.

Likewise, it is worth noting that correctional officers are governed by a rank structure which is similar to that of police officers and firefighters. We believe that, when standardizing the benefits of the employees of the Government of Puerto Rico, the employees of the Correctional Officer Corps of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should have been included together with the firefighters and

police officers who are already exempt from the provision we propose to amend herein. In light of the foregoing, this Legislative Assembly deems it meritorious to amend Act No. 26, *supra*, in order to grant these public servants the same treatment granted to police officers and firefighters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Section 2.04 (1) (a) of Act No. 26-2017, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.04- Fringe Benefits

The fringe benefits of the employees of the Executive Branch shall be:

1. Vacation Leave

a. As of the effectiveness of this Act, every government employee shall be entitled to accrue one and one-fourth (1¼) day of vacation leave for every month of service. This provision shall not apply to teaching personnel and school principals, except for the administrative and managerial personnel of the Department of Education, nor to teaching personnel of any educational institution of the Government of Puerto Rico, certified teachers of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, the law enforcement officers of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, the employees of the Correctional Officers Corps of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the employees rendering services under the ranking system of the Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps, who shall continue to accrue vacation leave as they did prior to the approval of this Act.

...”

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.